

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8596

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S E C R E T MANILA 11801

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY: MARCOS AID-MEMOIRE

REF: (A) MANILA 11733, (B) MANILA 11734

1. DURING CALL WHICH ADMIRAL GAYLER AND I MADE ON
PRESIDENT MARCOS MORNING AUGUST 7, MARCOS EXPANDED
SIGNIFICANTLY ON AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH HE HAD GIVEN TO
DEPSEC ROBINSON AUGUST 6.

2. MARCOS SAID THAT GOP FULLY UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM U.S.
EXECUTIVE HAS IN MAKING PROMISES OR COMMITMENTS WHICH
INVOLVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL
CONSENT. HE IS NOT, THEREFORE, ASKING FOR US TO GIVE HIM
A REPLY WHICH EXCEEDS THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OF
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

3. HE ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFERENT TYPES
OF U.S. ACTIONS EFFECTIVELY RESPONSIVE TO DIFFERENT TYPES
OF AGGRESSIVE ATTACKS. HOWEVER, HE FELT EXECUTIVE BRANCH
COULD, WITHIN ITS OWN AUTHORITY, UNDERTAKE DIPLOMATIC AND
LOGISTIC ACTIONS AND COULD ASSURE THE GOP THAT THE U.S.
WOULD NOT "UNDERCUT" PHILIPPINE POSITIONS IN THE MIDST
OF A TERRITORIAL DISPUTE.

4. SINCE GAYLER HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REFINEMENT OF AIDE

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MEMOIRE IN EARLIER CONVERSATION THAT SAME DAY WITH SECDEF

ENRILE, HE ASKED WHETHER RESPONSE DESIRED COULD CONFINE
ITSELF TO ASSURANCES OF POLITICAL AND LOGISTIC ACTION.
MARCOS WAS NON-COMMITAL IN HIS REPLY TO THIS QUESTION.

5. COMMENT: WHILE BROAD LANGUAGE OF AIDE MEMOIRE ADMITS
OF A SOMEWHAT MORE GENERALIZED RESPONSE, THE QUESTIONS
POSED IN THE MDB PAPER ARE FAR MORE SPECIFIC, ESPECIALLY
AS REGARDS ATTACKS ON PHILIPPINE PUBLIC VESSELS, ETC.
THEREFORE, WHILE THESE LATEST COMMENTS FROM MARCOS HAVE
MERIT IN REFINING THE AREA OF CONCERN, THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT
PERMIT WASHINGTON TO AVOID FACING UP TO THE HARD QUESTIONS
AS FAR AS THE SPECIFIC APPLICATION OF OUR RESPONSE TO THE
PUTATIVE PROVOCATIONS CITED IN THE MDB PAPER.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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